

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 02172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

1. ON MARCH 11 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTED GEORGES SPENALE, A FRENCH SOCIALIST, TO SUCCEED BERKHOUWER AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM. IF TRADITION IS FOLLOWED HE WILL BE REELECTED FOR A SECOND YEAR.

2. SPENALE'S ELECTION BROKE A 1971 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALISTS, LIBERALS AND EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS (A GROUPING OF GAULLIST AND FIANNA FAIL DEPUTIES) WHICH PROVIDED THAT EACH GROUP WOULD HOLD THE PRESIDENCY IN SUCCESSION AND WAS DESIGNED TO BREAK THE HOLD OF THE DOMINANT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ON THE PRESIDENCY. IF THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN OBSERVED, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE TURN OF THE EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS, BUT THE SOCIALISTS AND THE LIBERALS ARGUED THAT THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY HAD CREATED A NEW SITUATION AND THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS THUS NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

3. SPENALE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SINCE 1964. HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE BUDGETS. AS PRESIDENT HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN HIS ROLE AS THE PRINCIPAL PROTAGONIST IN THE
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PARLIAMENT' S FIGHT FOR GREATER BUDGETARY POWERS.

GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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